

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A network management system comprising a plurality of network devices operating in a coordinated manner and a management server managing said plurality of network devices, said management server comprising:

means for generating a plurality of pieces of setup information based on predefined meta-level information to be used for said plurality of network devices on which settings are to be made, said plurality of pieces of setup information being generated to maintain consistency in operation of said plurality of network devices, and

means for confirming consistency of said setup information set up in said plurality of network devices based on said meta-level information,

wherein said meta-level information is information to be used as a source for generating setup information for each of said plurality of network devices in a method according to a predefined policy for operating said network in a coordinated manner, and

wherein said management server further comprises:

means for collecting setup information for each of said network devices,

means for generating meta-level information to be checked based on the collected setup information, and

means for checking said meta-level information to be checked with said predefined meta-level information.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes tunneling setup information.

4. (previously presented) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein said network device is a firewall, and  
wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes setup information related to access control for said firewall.

5. (previously presented) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein each of said network devices is a server, and  
wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes an access privilege policy of said server.

6. (previously presented) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein each of said network devices is a computer executing a network application periodically exchanging data, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes setup information related to said network application.

7. (previously presented) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein a firewall is disposed between said management server and each of said network devices,

wherein said management server includes means for distributing routing means for routing settings from setup information for said firewall, and

wherein said distributed routing means including means for setting up said setup information in said network device.

8. (previously presented) A network management system according to claim 7, wherein said management server and said routing means includes means for performing mutual authentication and means for encrypting data.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A network management system having a plurality of network devices operating in a coordinated manner and a management server managing said plurality of network devices, said management server comprising:

means for generating a plurality of pieces of setup information based on predefined meta-level information that is referred to for causing said plurality of network devices to operate in a coordinated manner; and

means for distributing said plurality of pieces of setup information to each of said network devices,

wherein consistency of each of said plurality of setup information for each of said plurality of network devices operating in a coordinated manner is confirmed based on said ~~meta-based~~ meta-level information,

wherein said meta-level information is information to be used as a source for generating setup information for each of said plurality of network devices on a network according to a predetermined policy for operating said network in a coordinated manner,

wherein said management server further comprises:

means for collecting setup information for each of said plurality of network devices,

means for generating meta-level information to be checked based on the collected setup information, and

means for checking said meta-level information to be checked with said predefined meta-level information.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes tunneling setup information.

13. (previously presented) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein each of said network devices is a firewall, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes setup information related to access control for said firewall.

14. (previously presented) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein each of said network devices is a server, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes an access privilege policy of said server.

15. (previously presented) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein each of said network devices is a computer executing a network application periodically exchanging data, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes setup information related to said network application.

16. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein a firewall is disposed between said management server and each of said network devices,

wherein said management server includes means for distributing to distributed routing means routing settings from setup information for said firewall, and

wherein said distributed routing means includes means for setting up said setup information in said network device.

17. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein said management server ~~and said~~ and routing means include means for performing mutual authentication and means for encrypting data.